

Sterna hirundo (Common Tern)

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Charadriiformes (Plovers, Sandpipers, And Allies)

Family: Laridae (Gulls, Jaegers, Kittiwakes, Skimmers, Skuas, And Terns)

General comments:

7,467pairs; does best on managed islands but some on unmanaged sites, population at or above historic levels at this time

Species Conservation Range Maps for Common Tern:

Town Map: [Sterna hirundo_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Sterna hirundo_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation: NA

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:

Sterna hirundo is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority:

Northeast Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee:

Risk: No, Data: Yes, Area: No, Spec: Yes, Warrant Listing: No, Total Categories with "Yes": 2

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Common Tern:

Formation Name Cliff & Rock

Macrogroup Name Rocky Coast

Habitat System Name: Acadian-North Atlantic Rocky Coast ****Primary Habitat****

Formation Name Subtidal

Macrogroup Name Subtidal Pelagic (Water Column)

Habitat System Name: Nearshore

Habitat System Name: Offshore

Macrogroup Name Subtidal Sand Bottom

Habitat System Name: Sand Bottom Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

Stressors Assigned to Common Tern:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability	Moderate Severity		High Severity	
	Highly Actionable		Medium-High	
	Moderately Actionable		Medium	
	Actionable with Difficulty		Low	

IUCN Level 1 Threat Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Problematic Native Species-Diseases

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Highly actionable

Notes: Egg and chick depredation by large gulls

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IUCN Level 1 Threat Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Invasive plants impacting nesting habitat

IUCN Level 1 Threat Biological Resource Use

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Prey availability issues as many important foods are commercial valuable fish resources and disturbance associated with these activities

IUCN Level 1 Threat Climate Change and Severe Weather

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Sea level rise

IUCN Level 1 Threat Pollution

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Industrial and Military Effluents

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Oil spills around nesting islands or staging areas can be a significant problem

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Common Tern:

None. *Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Actions Associated with the Island Nesting Seabirds Guild:

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
Continue seabird restoration activities at historic nesting sites using social attraction, vegetation management, and predator control			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Problematic Native Species-Diseases, Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources, Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
Determine which factors influence breeding success and productivity			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Problematic Native Species-Diseases, Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
Determine the association with commercial fisheries and climate-induced changes to food availability			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

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Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.